

**REMARKS**

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action mailed December 29, 1998. In response thereto, claim 14 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claim 8 is amended. As a result, claims 8-13 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

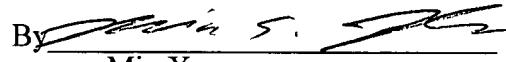
As indicated by the Examiner, claim 14 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. To expedite the prosecution, claim 8 is now amended to include the features recited in claim 14. Thus, claim 8 and its dependent claims are in a condition for allowance.

Applicant also preserves the rights to claim a broader scope of the invention. In fact, a broader claim claiming that other types of material, such as wick, etc., can be filled in the leg is concurrently pursued in the co-pending continuation-in-part patent application, S/N 09/135,916, filed August 18, 1998.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and a favorable response are respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at (612)336-4733.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT, GOULD, SMITH, EDELL,  
WELTER & SCHMIDT, P.A.  
3100 Norwest Center  
90 South Seventh Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402  
FAX 612/332-9081  
PHONE 612/332-5300

By   
Min Xu  
Registration No. 39,536  
AX/mas